

Short North Parking Pilot Program Feedback

The DRAFT Short North Parking Pilot Program was publicly released on March 14, 2017. The pilot program is intended to resolve permit parking inconsistencies and reduce confusion surrounding parking availability in the Short North area. The proposal was developed with the assistance of the Short North Advisory Group, also known as the Short North Working Group. This group was reconvened in January 2016 and met monthly to discuss the 2015 Short North Parking Study recommendations and offer suggestions and ideas on permit parking.

The information provided to Short North residents and business included drafted legislation giving the Director of Public Service the ability to initiate the pilot program and make necessary adjustments throughout the pilot; an overview of the pilot program; a draft map of the proposed permit parking zones; and drafted rules and regulations for permit parking. An email address was also created for interested parties to provide input on the proposal. Throughout the process, the City received more than 160 emails offering feedback.

Councilmember Shannon Hardin held a public hearing in Council Chambers on March 22, 2017, to provide residents and business owners an opportunity to learn about the drafted proposal. Over the following three weeks, the Department of Public Service and members of the working group held open houses at four locations in the Short North. The open houses provided an opportunity to learn about the pilot, ask questions, and share concerns/suggestions with city staff and working group members. Each attendee was given an opportunity to complete a comment form and provide feedback on the proposal. City Staff also met with the Weinland Park Civic Association on April 26, 2017, to share the proposal and seek feedback. Like the open houses, attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions, share concerns/suggestions, and complete a comment form.

The four open houses were well attended with more than 250 total attendees. The City received more than 200 comment forms providing feedback on the draft proposal.

Below is a brief summary of the comments received through email, open house comment forms, and the Weinland Park Civic Association meeting. All comments were separated into categories to better understand the issues/concerns to aid in making decisions on potential changes to the draft proposal. Note: an online survey was also completed, the results can be found at <https://www.columbus.gov/publicservice/parking/proposed-short-north-pilot-program/> and are not reflected in the information below.

Boundaries:

- **Most common theme:** I don't currently have a parking problem
- There were equal comments regarding the proposed boundaries being too excessive and the boundaries being appropriate
- If parking is not available in my zone, I should have the ability to park in the next zone

On-Street Restrictions:

- **Most common theme:** The request for a permit only restriction during evening and overnight hours

- Other trends include:
 - 24/7 permit only parking
 - 3 hour restriction at all times
 - 6 hour during the daytime was supported but multiple different restrictions were suggested for the evening hours
- Many comments revolved around the proposed restrictions being too burdensome for residents

Residential Permit Parking:

- **Most common theme:** Permits should be free for residents and that the proposed rate of \$50 per permit was excessive
- Condos should not be included in the multifamily restriction
- There were equal comments regarding apartments needing access to permits
- High St residents need access to permits
- Two permits per household was unreasonable
- Permit parking and on-street restrictions pose concerns for churches and schools as it relates to events and services

Visitor Permits:

- **Most common theme:** Residents want to maintain the current hangtag system
- One-day passes are too expensive and should be free
- The proposed visitor permit system is too burdensome and doesn't accommodate daily contractors, in-home care, childcare, lawn care services, etc.
- Maximum of 100 day passes per year is not enough
- Many like an online options for one-day passes but don't agree that license plates should be required

Business Permits:

- **Most common theme:** Residents and business owners are concerned about employee parking
- Business owners should take some responsibility in addressing employee and customer parking needs
- Employees need garage options and shuttles to get employees to and from garages
- The proposed plan is too difficult for businesses and employees

Parking Benefit District

- **Most common theme:** There is support for the parking benefit district but residents and businesses should benefit
- Money should be used for infrastructure improvements, transportation options for residents and employees, improved wayfinding to parking garages, etc.

Enforcement

- **Most common theme:** Enforcement is critical and must be consistent
- Enforcement needs to extend beyond 10 pm to be effective
- Need additional enforcement officers to be effective

